Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/1225854911/

The Globe and Mail (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) · Tue, Oct 17, 2000 · Page 35
Downloaded on Feb 7, 2026

IN BRIEF

IT

Shortage of professionals gives hefty salary boost

A shortage of senior information-technology professionals in Canada helped boost their salaries last year by up to 15 percentage points above the national average. A study released yesterday by the Software Human Resource Council found that raises for IT workers in Canada ranged from 8 to 19 per cent last year, up from a national average of between 3 and 3.5 per cent. The study also found that between 1997 and 2000, salaries increased in a range from 12 per cent for senior help-desk analysts, to 34 per cent for quality assurance managers. The study — Salary Increases for Informatics Occupational Skills Streams — tracked increases for the one- and three-year terms for five major IT areas: design and delivery, technical architecture and network support, quality assurance, problem management and education. The salary boost is related to the increased demand for customizing client applications and building e-commerce applications, reported the SHRC, a non-profit organization that represents software professionals.

ELECTRONICS

Com Dev to begin on European satellite deal

Com Dev International Ltd. says its European subsidiary has received "authority to proceed" on a contract from a European satellite contractor for advanced radio-frequency electronic equipment. The "authority to proceed" allows Cambridge, Ont.-based Com Dev to begin work on the contract up to a maximum liability of $2.2-million. The company expects the full contract to be worth about $14.2-million.

OIL AND GAS

Chieftain takes stake in Gulfstream Resources

Chieftain International Inc. has bought a minority stake in **Gulfstream Resources Canada Ltd.** and has been granted an option to acquire 50 per cent of Gulfstream's oil and natural gas interests in Qatar. Under a deal announced yesterday, Edmonton-based Chieftain got a three-month option on the Qatar properties, subject to various approvals and other conditions. In addition, the company bought 4.85 million Gulfstream shares for $5-million (U.S.), gaining 8.2 per cent of the company. Calgary-based Gulfstream currently owns a stake in the Al Rayyan oil development in Qatar and other interests in the Middle Eastern country and surrounding areas.

Westminster shareholders approve asset sale to AEC

Westminster Resources Ltd. shareholders have approved a $62.7-million asset sale to **Alberta Energy Co.'s** AEC Oil & Gas unit. Westminster said 99 per cent of its shareholders approved the asset sale, which is expected to close Thursday. Last month, Westminster said it will have about $22-million from the sale proceeds to continue and expand its joint venture with the Berkeley Petroleum partnership in the San Joaquin Basin in California. Westminster and Alberta Energy are based in Calgary.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Dimethaid files in Canada for Pennsaid approval

Dimethaid Research Inc. has filed a new drug submission with Health Canada for approval to market Pennsaid, its treatment for osteoarthritis. Canadian regulators in August discontinued their review of Pennsaid and requested additional clinical data. Dimethaid of Markham, Ont., said results from its latest clinical trial of Pennsaid confirmed earlier findings of the drug's effectiveness. The product has been conditionally approved in Britain, and Dimethaid expects to meet all necessary conditions to obtain final approval.

CONSTRUCTION

SNC-Lavalin to build Algerian water project

Montreal engineering company **SNC-Lavalin Group Inc.** has signed a $600-million memorandum of understanding with the Algerian government for a project to supply the cities along the Tizi-Ouzou/Algiers corridor with drinking water. Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade said the agreement was one of a number of pacts, totalling more than $605-million, signed at a ceremony in Algiers Sunday. The SNC-Lavalin project could create 150 jobs in Canada, most of them in Quebec. **Canam Manac Group Inc.** of Ville St-Georges, Que., and **ADF Group Inc.** of Terrebonne, Que., also signed a partnership agreement for carrying out projects in Algeria.

TRANSPORTATION

Air Canada doubles flights to Phoenix

Air Canada will add another daily non-stop Toronto-Phoenix flight starting Oct. 29, doubling the number of daily flights to that destination. The Arizona Tourism board said **America West Airlines Inc.** will also launch a daily non-stop Toronto-Phoenix service on Oct. 30.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Harrowston, Trylon TSF take stake in British firm

Harrowston Inc. of Toronto has formed a joint venture to invest $9.6-million ($21.2-million) in **MLL Telecom Ltd.**, a British-based telecommunications company, for a 42.5-per-cent stake. Harrowston said its joint venture partner is the private Canadian holding company of **Trylon TSF** of Elmira, Ont., which builds towers for the telecommunications and broadcast industries. The majority shareholder in MLL is Godfrey Wilson, the company's founder. MLL plans to use the investment proceeds to finance its broadband fixed-wireless point-to-point business and to capitalize on opportunities in the fixed wireless communications sector.

SEMICONDUCTORS

Quake wins $12-million financing

An Ottawa company has landed $12-million (U.S.) in venture capital financing from a California investment firm. **Quake Technologies Inc.**, a semiconductor design startup, said yesterday it has received the investment from Mohr, Davidow Ventures of Menlo Park, Calif., which the companies hope will allow Quake to fulfill its expansion goals. The company, which is developing applications for fibre-optic networks, has 33 employees and plans to double by the end of 2001. Quake was founded in April.

E-COMMERCE

New law in effect in Ontario

A new law that gives electronic signatures and contracts the same legal status as their paper counterparts came into effect in Ontario yesterday. The Electronic Commerce Act law does not override existing provincial laws and regulations that prohibit the use of electronic documents, and it doesn't apply to wills, personal powers of attorney, and most negotiable instruments such as cheques, land transfers and election documents. However, Attorney General Jim Flaherty said, the law provides legal clarity for those doing business electronically; ensures electronic documents and signatures have the same legal effect as paper ones; sets rules for automated transactions and for correcting mistakes made on a computer; and adopts national and international standards for e-commerce law.

Breaking news at globeandmail.com

Jitec shares halted on ME

Tech firm asked to clarify press release

BY BERTRAND MAROTTE, MONTREAL

Trading in **Jitec Inc.** shares was halted yesterday after the Montreal Exchange asked the information-technology startup company to clarify statements made in a previous news release.

Benoit Laliberté, president and chief executive officer of Montreal-based Jitec, said in an interview yesterday that his company and **Canada Payphone Corp.** of Burnaby, B.C., are working on a joint news statement that will clarify the content of two separate releases the companies put out in August concerning an agreement between them.

"Yes, I admit there was perhaps some ambiguity in [Jitec's Aug. 8] news release," Mr. Laliberté said.

In an interview last week, Mr. Laliberté insisted the Jitec release was accurate.

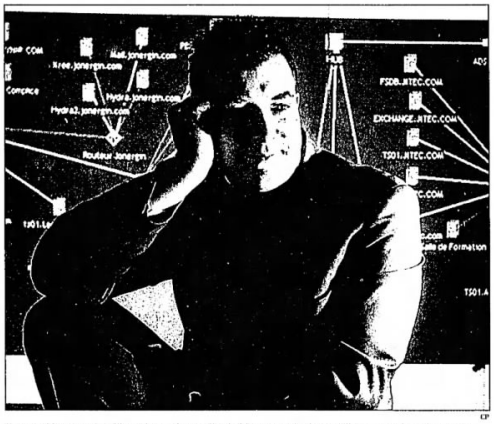
Jitec markets low-cost computer networking systems such as bare-bones computers that have no hard or CD-ROM drives, but are connected to high-powered servers loaded with the latest in software.

The company's shares have been trading on the ME since they went public in July, but Jitec said recently it wants to transfer its listing to the more senior Toronto Stock Exchange.

In the Aug. 8 release, Jitec spoke of a $105-million deal with Canada Payphone for the "implementation" of 45,000 terminals in major hotels across the country over a two-year period.

In a release the following day, however, Canada Payphone said it "anticipates" a market of up to 45,000 over the next two years, with a value of $105-million.

Mr. Laliberté plans to issue the new release today before markets open, and trading in Jitec should then resume, he said.



CP

Jitec president Benoit Laliberté hopes that trading in his company's shares will resume today, when a new statement clarifying a deal with Canada Payphone is released.

The Quebec Securities Commission has confirmed it is also looking into certain trading patterns in Jitec stock over the past few months.

In addition, Jitec has hired a lawyer to try and settle a dispute with high-profile Montreal businessman Herbert Black.

"There have been discussions. There are quite a few people involved in the file, but I know there has been a meeting with Herbert Black," said René Branchaud of Montreal law firm Lavery De Billy.

Mr. Laliberté says Mr. Black — president of scrap-metal recovery firm American Iron & Metal Co. — has been aggressively shorting Jitec stock and is angry because the shares have not plummeted to the $4 level, which would allow him to cover his position.

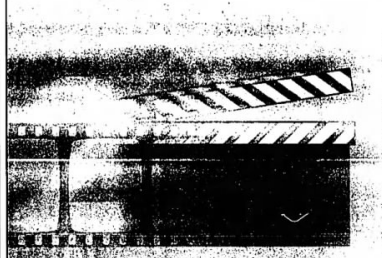
(Short-selling involves borrowing stock, then selling it with the intention of buying it back at a lower price in order to make a profit once what has been borrowed is replaced.)

Mr. Black insists he is not currently shorting Jitec stock.

He said in an interview that he became concerned about certain claims being made by Jitec — in its news release about Canada Payphone and in other statements — after his broker brought the company to his attention as a possible investment.

Last week's QSC insider trading report shows that Mr. Laliberté was active in buying and selling Jitec shares in July and August.

MAKE WAY FOR CANADIAN CINEMA!



Canadian cinema is you and me.

The creators bring our stories, our emotions and our views of the world to the screen.

Encouraged by the new resources available for feature films recently announced by the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Sheila Copps, creators will be able to focus their talents and abilities, and enrich our cinema.

You will have broader access to Canadian stories and images.

AND THAT'S GREAT NEWS!

ACADEMY OF CANADIAN CINEMA AND TELEVISION
ALLIANCE DES PRODUCTEURS FRANCOPHONES DU CANADA (APFC)
ALLIANCE OF CANADIAN CINEMA, TV AND RADIO ARTISTS (ACTRA)
ASSOCIATION DES PRODUCTEURS DE FILMS ET DE TV DU QUÉBEC (APFTQ)
ASSOCIATION DES RÉALISATRICES ET RÉALISATEURS DU QUÉBEC (ARRQ)
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FILM DISTRIBUTORS AND EXPORTERS (CAFDE)
CANADIAN FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION ASSOCIATION (CFTPA)
CANADIAN FILM CENTRE
DIRECTORS GUILD OF CANADA (DGC)
INSTITUT NATIONAL DE L'IMAGE ET DU SON (INIS)
MOTION PICTURE THEATRE ASSOCIATIONS OF CANADA
SOCIÉTÉ DES AUTEURS DE RADIO, TÉLÉVISION ET CINÉMA (SARTEC)
UNION DES ARTISTES (UDA)
WRITERS GUILD OF CANADA (WGC)

We can think of 5,000 reasons for business travellers to join Diners Club.

They're called Aeroplan miles.

Diners Club International

Call 1 800 363.3333 to apply and receive 5,000 Aeroplan miles® as a sign-up bonus.

Diners Club International enRoute

AIR CANADA Aeroplan

The special offer is available only to first time applicants upon approval of the application and receipt of the annual fee. Diners Club, Diners Club International, Enroute, the Diners Club International and the enRoute Design Marks of Diners Club International Ltd. used under licence by Diners Club of Canada. Diners Club International Ltd. and Diners Club of Canada. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

Copyright © 2026 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.